

With regard to BellSouth's application to restrict access to their high speed lines, I am a DSL user, and in my area I only have one option for highspeed connection to the internet. I am able to use a small private, service oriented company for my ISP however -- I save money, get help when I need it, and pay much less than when I had my phone company as my ISP. The internet gives us an opportunity to resist centralization and unfair profit taking. There are no other options, and so to give a monopoly to the phone company would guarantee higher prices and lower service. When anything goes wrong, my phone company is swamped with inquiries and the last time that happened, it took me four days to get through to them. On the other hand, with freedom to choose, I have found a small company where service is personal, fast and really helpful. I would be harmed if I no longer had any choice and had to change back to the phone company as my ISP for highspeed service. I urge the commission to reject this attempt to restrict choice and interfere with the market -- it will reduce product development, raise costs, and harm the consumer. Thank you, Joan C. Golston, DCSW, LICSW